Amendments to the Specification:

Please add the following <u>new</u> paragraph before the heading "Background of the Invention":

--<u>This is a divisional application of co-pending U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/357,196, filed July 20, 1999, and hereby incorporated by reference as if reproduced in its entirety.</u>--

Please change Page 8, Paragraph 2, as follows:

Upon detection of an alarm event, base station **10** transmits an alarm signal and video corresponding to the alarm event (this video may be referred to as "alarm video") to central station **14** in substantially "real time". In the present disclosure, the term "real-time" transmission is intended to generally mean that no substantive time period ~~events~~ <u>elapses</u> between the captured event and the receipt of alarm video corresponding to the event by the central station **14**. The central station **14** may use the transmitted alarm video to aid in the determination of whether the alarm signal is a false alarm or not. Advantageously, the real-time transmission permits the central station **14** to respond to an alarm signal in a timely manner. Timely response may increase the chance of apprehending an intruder, and in the case of life-threatening circumstances, reduce the likelihood of injury or death. Upon verification of the alarm signal, an operator at the central station **14** may take appropriate action including, but not limited to, contacting the proper authorities and/or directing the base station **10** to sound an alarm.

Please change Page 9, Paragraph 1, as follows:

Whether separate alarm sensors are present or not, base station 10 may use video from video camera 18 to assist in the determination of whether an alarm event exists and thereby whether to generate and send an alarm signal to central station 14. For example, in one embodiment, separate sensors such as motion detectors, infra-red and audio sensors could be replaced by an intelligent alarm that is able to detect motion by analyzing the video image. In another embodiment, the intelligent alarm sensor may also analyze sounds to determine if an alarm event exists. The intelligent alarm application may reside in base station 10 and analyze each image and audio sound (if present) to detect an alarm event. In some embodiments, the sensitivity of the system may be adjusted based upon the size and speed ~~or~~ of intruders. For example, the system may be adjusted to trigger an alarm if a dog walks across a monitored driveway but not a bird flying through. Advantageously, a visual intelligent security system based on changes in the video image eliminates the need for many sometimes expensive hardware sensors. In addition, a visual intelligent security system may be easier to setup, maintain and upgrade since the intelligent alarm application may be programmable. Intelligent alarm applications typically require a significant amount of processing by the base station 10. In one embodiment, the base station may include a processor and memory to record and process video information for the intelligent alarm application.

Please change Page 9, Paragraph 3 as follows:

As shown, high-speed connection 20 may be substantially continuous. Advantageously, this eliminates the need for the base station to dial up the Internet service or monitoring station when an alarm is detected. Dialing up and connecting via a modem over the PSTN may take around 10-15 seconds. This combined with the traditionally slow transfer times, results in a delay of the video which may cause the monitoring station to be unable to view it in substantially real time. In addition, the central station 14 may be operable to detect whether base station 10 is properly coupled to it. For example, in one embodiment, central station 14 may "ping" base station 10 on a regular basis through network 12; if central station 14 does not receive a response from base station 10, monitoring personnel at central station 14 can take appropriate action. Preferably, central station 14 may "ping" base station 10 with enough frequency such that appropriate action may be taken in a timely manner if base station 10 becomes uncoupled from central station 14. In one embodiment, central station 14 may be configured to "ping" base station 10 at least once every minute. [base station